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Shell International Research Maatschappij B.V.
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15-19 Kingsway
LONDON
WC2B 6UD

Your Reference: HL83599/ASG/par
Application No: GB 0225505.7

The Patent Office
Patents Directorate

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1 July 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 2 January 2004

In response to the further Patents Forms 9/77 filed on 24 March 2003, I enclose two copies of my report and two copies of the citations [As agreed with the Agent only a total of two copies of the citations given for all the further searches have been provided].

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Mole
Examiner

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



Application No: GB 0225505.7 Examiner: Nicholas Mole
Claims searched: 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 18-22, 23-27, 40-44, 45-49, 61, 62, 66, 67, 71, 72, 76, 77 Date of search: 30 June 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Further Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X, Y	18, 20-21, 23, 25-26, 40, 42-43, 45, 47-48, 66, 67, 72 (X) 2, 3, 19, 24 (Y)	GB 2343691 A (SHELL) see whole document
X, Y	18, 20-21, 23, 25-26, 40, 42-43, 45, 47-48, 66, 67, 72 (X) 2, 3, 19, 24 (Y)	GB 2348223 A (SHELL) see esp. figure 21 and page 206 line 16 to page 210 line 32
X, E	18, 23, 66, 67	GB 2381019 A (ENVENTURE) see esp. figure 1
X, E	18, 23, 66, 67	GB 2380503 A (SHELL) see esp. figure 1
Y	2, 3	GB 2325949 A (BAKER HUGHES) see esp. page 10 lines 4-21
Y	2, 3	US 5447201 (MOHN) see esp. col. 2 lines 18-36
Y	2, 3	US 4942926 (LESSI) see esp. col. 4 lines 31-52
Y	19, 24	US 6263972 B (RICHARD) see esp. col. 4 lines 35-40

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0225505.7 **Examiner:** Nicholas Mole
Claims searched: 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 18-22, 23-27, 40-44, 45-49, 61, 62, 66, 67, 71, 72, 76, 77 **Date of search:** 30 June 2003

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKCV:

E1F

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷ :

E21B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

WPI EPODOC JAPIO



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Patents Act 1977

Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Conciseness/plurality of invention

1. Your claims are not concise under Section 14(5)(b) through the multiplicity of independent claims, obscuring the nature of the invention. You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate clearly and concisely to only one invention or inventive concept.
2. The substantive examination has been deferred until such time as the claims have been suitably amended.



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30 June 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Amendment to Search Report

Since issuing my search report of 4 March 2003, whilst conducting the requested further searches I have become aware of the following document as being relevant to claim 1:

GB2348223 A

As requested by the Agent, I enclose close two copies of this document with the report on the 18 further searches.

Yours faithfully

Nicholas Mole
Examiner

†**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.